

From: Cam Causey
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello.

I'd like to add my voice to those expressing misgivings about the proposed settlement of private lawsuits, in which Microsoft would work off it's penalty by giving large amounts of its technology to poor schools.

I have to agree with those who point out that this would merely serve to add to Microsoft's competitive advantage, in one of the few markets where there is real competition to the Windows juggernaut.

In fact, given Microsoft's immense resources in ruthless marketing practices, it will take a severe penalty, indeed, to have any real and lasting effect. The breakup of the large corporation into separate operating system and applications entities is one of the few solutions I see that might actually improve competition without stifling innovation.

And for the record, it is my opinion that Microsoft has never innovated a single technology, choosing instead to take new ideas developed by others, implement them poorly, and then weave them inextricably into their operating system to force them upon the public. It is in this way that Microsoft can successfully thumb its nose at any attempts to implement standards in the software industry, especially the internet/web sector.

I urge you to re-think this settlement and consider something that will actually promote competition, not defeat it. Thank you.

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